**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims replaces the listings of the claims in the present patent application:

Listing of Claims:

**Claim 1 (Currently Amended).**  A system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content, comprising:

a distributing recording medium selected from a general recording medium consisting of a CD and a DVD, in which ~~on which~~ a content file having header information and a data body is recorded and lacks a part of the header information;

a bank or credit card company communicatively coupled to the Internet with a communication line;

a management unit communicatively coupled to the Internet with the communication line, the management unit configured to manage ~~for managing~~ use of the content file on the distributing recording medium and capable of transferring the prepared part of the header information as a piece of data via [[a]] the communication line, wherein the communication line is configured to communicate the piece of data after a charge is collected from the bank or credit card company; and

a digital content playing device communicatively coupled to the Internet with the communication line, the digital content playing device configured to play ~~used for at least playing~~ the content file on the distributing recording medium and having a function of communicating via the communication line with the management unit, the piece of data being necessary for the digital content playing device to play the data body, wherein

when a request to play the content file under authentication and charging conditions is inputted by a user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transfers the request via the communication line to the management unit, the management unit checks authentication and charging of the user related to the request before transferring the piece of data via the communication line to the digital content playing device, and the digital content

playing device uses the header information on the distributing recording medium and the piece of data only in play operation to play the data body on the distributing recording medium.

**Claim 2 (Currently Amended).**  A system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content comprising:

a distributing recording medium selected from a general recording medium consisting of a CD and a DVD, in which on which a content file having header information and a data body is recorded in a state of lacking at least part of the header information;

a bank or credit card company communicatively coupled to the Internet with a communication line;

a management unit communicatively coupled to the Internet with the communication line, the management unit configured to manage for managing use of the content file on the distributing recording medium and capable of transmitting the prepared part of the header information as a piece of data via [[a]] the communication line, wherein the communication line is configured to communicate the piece of data after a charge is collected from the bank or credit card company; and

a digital content playing device communicatively coupled to the Internet with the communication line, the digital content playing device configured to play used for at least playing the content file on the distributing recording medium and having a function of communicating via the communication line with the management unit, the piece of data being necessary for the digital content playing device to play the data body, wherein

when a request to play the content file is inputted by a user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transmits the request via the communication line to the management unit, the management unit checks authentication of the user related to the request before transmitting the piece of data via the communication line to the digital content playing device, and the digital content playing device uses the header information on the distributing recording

medium and the piece of data in play operation to play the data body on the distributing recording medium.

**Claim 3 (Currently Amended).**  A distributing recording medium fabrication device used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 1, which separates the piece of data from a content file having header information and a data body for recording and records the content file separated from the piece of data on a recording medium received in the preparation device to create a distributing recording medium.

**Claim 4 (Currently Amended).**  A digital content playing device used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 1, which has the functions of:

when a request to play the content file is inputted by the user, transmitting the request via the communication line to the management unit; and thereafter,

when the piece of data is transmitted from the management unit via the communication line, using the header information on the distributing recording medium and the piece of data in play operation to play the data body on the distributing recording medium.

**Claim 5 (Currently Amended):** A recording medium storing playing software used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 1, wherein the digital content playing device is a computer and the playing software is processed by the computer, and

wherein the system is made such that when a request to play the content file is inputted by the user, the request is transmitted via the communication line to the management unit, and thereafter,

when the piece of data is transmitted from the management unit via the communication line, the header information on the distributing recording medium and the piece of data are used in play operation to play the data body on the distributing recording medium.

**Claim 6 (Currently Amended):** A system for preventing the unauthorized play of digital content, comprising:

a bank or credit card company communicatively coupled to the Internet with a communication line;

a delivery management unit communicatively coupled to the Internet with the communication line, the delivery management unit configured to deliver delivering a content file having header information and a data body via the [[a]] communication line and managing use of the data body; and

a digital content playing device communicatively coupled to the Internet with the communication line, the digital content playing device capable of communicating via the communication line with the delivery management unit and used for at least playing the content file delivered from the delivery management unit, wherein

when a request to download the content file is inputted by a user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transfers the request via the communication line to the delivery management unit, the delivery management unit transfers the content file related to the request via the communication line to the digital content playing device with the content file lacking a part of the header information to prevent unauthorized play and unauthorized copy thereof, wherein the communication line is configured to communicate the piece of data after a charge is collected from the bank or credit card company, thereafter,

when a request to play the content file under authentication and charging conditions is inputted by the user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transfers the request via the communication line to the delivery management unit, the delivery management unit checks authentication and charging of the user related to the request to transfer the prepared part of the header information as a piece of data via the communication line to the digital content playing device, and

the digital content playing device uses the header information of the transferred content file and the piece of data only in play operation to play the data body of the content file.

**Claim 7 (Currently Amended):** A system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content comprising:

a bank or credit card company communicatively coupled to the Internet with a communication line;

a delivery management unit which is a server communicatively coupled to the Internet with the communication line, the server storing in which a content file having header information and a data body is prepared in a state of lacking part of the header information and the part of the header information is prepared as a piece of data, and which delivers the content file via a communication line and manages use of the data body; and

a digital content playing device communicatively coupled to the Internet with capable of communicating via the communication line that is communicatively coupled to the bank or credit card company and [[with]] the delivery management unit, the digital content playing device [[and]] used for at least playing the content file delivered from the delivery management unit, the piece of data being necessary for the digital content playing device to play the data body, wherein

when a request to download the content file is inputted by a user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transmits the request via the communication line to the delivery management unit, the delivery management unit transmits the content file related to the request via the communication line to the digital content playing device, , wherein the communication line is configured to communicate the piece of data after a charge is collected from the bank or credit card company, thereafter,

when a request to play the content file is inputted by the user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transmits the request via the communication line to the delivery management  unit, the delivery management unit checks authentication of the user related to the request to transmit the piece of data of the content file related to the request via the communication line to the digital content playing device, and

the digital content playing device uses the header information of the transmitted content file and the piece of data in play operation to play the data body of the content file.

**Claim 8 (Currently Amended):** A digital content playing device used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 6, which has functions of:

when a request to download the content file is inputted by a user, transmitting the request via the communication line to the delivery management unit; after the content file is transmitted from the delivery management unit, when a request to play the content file is inputted by the user, transmitting the request via the communication line to the delivery management unit; and thereafter,

when the piece of data is transmitted from the delivery management unit via the communication line, using the header information of the transmitted content file and the piece of data in play operation to play the data body of the content file.

**Claim 9 (Currently Amended):** A recording medium storing playing software used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 6, wherein the digital content playing device is a computer and the playing software is processed by the computer, and in which the system is made such that when a request to download the content file is inputted by the user, the request is transmitted via the communication line to the delivery management unit, after the content file is transmitted from the delivery management unit, when a request to play the content file is inputted by the user, the request is transmitted via the communication line to the delivery management unit, and thereafter, when the piece of data is transmitted from the delivery management unit via the communication line, the header information of the transmitted content file and the piece of data are used in play operation to play the data body of the content file.

**Claim 10 (Currently Amended):** The system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 1, wherein the digital content playing device has functions of:

determining an elapsed period from the point of time at which the piece of data is transmitted from the management unit or the delivery management unit; and

when the elapsed period reaches a predetermined period, deleting the transmitted piece of data.

**Claim 11 (Currently Amended):** The digital content playing device used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 4, which has functions of:

determining an elapsed period from the point of time at which the piece of data is transmitted from the management unit or the delivery management unit; and when the elapsed period reaches a predetermined period, deleting the transmitted piece of data.

**Claim 12 (Currently Amended):** The playing software used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 5, comprising additional descriptions of:

determining an elapsed period from the point of time at which the piece of data is transmitted from the management unit or the delivery management unit, and

when the elapsed period reaches a predetermined period, deleting the transmitted piece of data.

**Claim 13 (Previously Presented):** The system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 1, wherein the digital content playing device is a computer, provided that playing software processed by the computer is prepared in the management unit or the delivery management unit, when a request to download the playing software is inputted by the user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transmits the request via the communication line to the management unit or the delivery management unit, the management unit or the delivery management unit transmits the playing software related to the request via the communication line to the digital content playing device, and the digital content playing device downloads the playing software.

**Claim 14 (Cancelled):** ~~A digital content unauthorized play prevention method, wherein provided that a content file having header information and a data body in a digital content playing device previously lacks a part of the header information, and that the part of the header information is prepared as piece data in management unit for managing use of the content file in the device and capable of communicating via a communication line with the device, when a request to play the content file under authentication and charging conditions is inputted by a user to the device, the device transfers the request via the communication line to the management unit, the management unit checks authentication and charging of the user related to the request to transfer the piece data via the communication line to the device, the piece data being necessary for the device to play the data body, and the device uses the header information of the content file and the piece data only in play operation to play the data body of the content file.~~

**Claim 15 (Currently Amended):** The system for preventing <u>the</u> unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 2, wherein the request to play the content file by the user is made under an authentication <u>and</u> ~~and/or~~ charging condition of the user.

**Claim 16 (Currently Amended):** The system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 10, wherein the digital content playing device has functions of:

determining an elapsed period from the point of time at which, aside from <u>the</u> piece <u>of</u> data, the content file is transmitted from the delivery management unit; and when the elapsed period reaches a predetermined period, deleting the transmitted content file.

**Claim 17 (Currently Amended):** The digital content playing device used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 11, which has functions of:

determining an elapsed period from the point of time at which, aside from <u>the</u> piece <u>of</u> data, the content file is transmitted from the delivery management unit; and

when the elapsed period reaches a predetermined period, deleting the transmitted content file.

**Claim 18 (Currently Amended):** The playing software used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 12, comprising additional descriptions of:

determining an elapsed period from the point of time at which, aside from the piece of data, the content file is transmitted from the delivery management unit, and

when the elapsed period reaches a predetermined period, deleting the transmitted content file.

**Claim 19 (Cancelled):** ~~A digital content unauthorized play prevention method, wherein provided that a content file having header information and a data body in a digital content playing device previously lacks a part of the header information, and that the part of the header information is prepared as a piece data in management unit for managing use of the content file in the device and communicable via a communication line with the device, the piece data being necessary for the device to play the data body, when a request to play the content file is inputted by a user to the device, the device transmits the request via the communication line to the management unit, the management unit checks authentication of the user related to the request to transmit the piece data of the content file related to the request via the communication line to the device, and the device uses the header information of the content file and the piece data in play operation to play the data body of the content file.~~

**Claim 20 (Cancelled):** ~~The system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content recited in claim 2, wherein the communication line connects via the Internet.~~